

Sub I 17 1. (Thrice Amended) A container closure for an open-ended container comprising:

(i) a pre-stressed flexible membrane for closing the open end of the container;

(ii) a seal provided, in use of the closure, between the flexible membrane and a container;

(iii) a rigid cap having a resiliently deformable member juxtaposed to the flexible membrane in use of the closure, the resiliently deformable member in use pressing the flexible membrane against the container in the vicinity of the seal, thereby reinforcing the seal sufficiently to withstand pressures generated on heating of the contents of the container;

wherein, the rigid cap includes one of a cam and follower pair engageable in use of the closure with the other of a cam and follower pair on a said container, including a neck, that is closeable by the closure relative movement between the cam and follower in a predetermined direction causing the rigid cap and the container neck to approach one another, thereby increasing the pressure exerted by the resiliently deformable member on the flexible membrane,

the rigid cap further including a laminar member and an annular skirt depending downwardly therefrom, the cam or the follower being secured on the upper wall of the skirt,

and wherein the laminar member is spaced from the flexible membrane by a distance less than the maximum possible extension of the flexible member towards the laminar member.

4. (Thrice Amended) A container closure according to claim 1 shaped to close a container, said container including a neck having an annular flange for defining part of the said seal, the resiliently deformable member being, in use of the closure,

substantially congruent with the flange whereby the resilient member presses the flexible membrane against the flange.

12. (Fourth Amended) A combination of an open-ended container and container closure therefore comprising:

(i) a pre-stressed flexible membrane for closing the open end of the container;

(ii) a seal provided, in use of the closure, between the flexible membrane and a container;

(iii) a rigid cap having a resiliently deformable member juxtaposed to the flexible membrane in use of the closure, the resiliently deformable member in use pressing the flexible membrane against the container in the vicinity of the seal, thereby reinforcing the seal sufficiently to withstand pressures generated on heating of the contents of the container;

wherein, the rigid cap includes one of a cam and follower pair engageable in use of the closure with the other of a cam and follower pair on a said container, including a neck, that is closeable by the closure relative movement between the cam and follower in a predetermined direction causing the rigid cap and the container neck to approach one another, thereby increasing the pressure exerted by the resiliently deformable member on the flexible membrane,

the rigid cap further including a laminar member and an annular skirt depending downwardly therefrom, the cam or the follower being secured on the upper wall of the skirt,

and wherein the laminar member is spaced from the flexible membrane by a distance less than the maximum possible extension of the flexible member towards the laminar member, said container being a metal or composite can.